

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director of Training

DATE: 13 March 1958

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FROM : Chief/Language and Area School

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report #10

Document No. 37
NO CHANGE in Class. ☒
☐ DECLASSIFIED
Class. CHANGED TO: TS S O
EPA Memo, 4 Apr 77
Auth: DPA PNC 77/17
Date: 08 MAR 1978 By []

A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

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The Near East-Africa Division has given NO indication of interest in the Swahili course that begins next Monday - not even an inquiry about it. The DD/I, however, has three firm and two probable enrollees. Beyond an original indication of interest, we have not heard further from a JOT in WE who, we presume, could not get permission to enroll.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

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1. A special QRP considered the qualifications of seven candidates for the initial running of our new French Integrated Language/Area Study conducted entirely in French for students whose proficiency equals that expected of the average graduate of our basic intensive course. As the substantive orientation of the course is towards public affairs and the social sciences, some background in related fields also is desired. Five candidates were determined to be qualified; we are waiting for additional information on the others. Starting date for the course has been postponed from 17 March to 24 March. Duration of the course is ten weeks. There will be a series of lectures by visiting speakers. The time and date of each of these lectures will soon be announced for the benefit of those not enrolled in the course who might wish to attend.

2. The Weather Bureau has inquired about possibilities of our accommodating several meteorologists in our scientific Russian language program. An exploratory conference will occur on Friday, 14 March. The conference will include representatives of OSI and other interested offices.

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3. [] have discussed ways for more suitably coordinating and integrating activities of the two schools. This will be the topic for general discussion among SIC and LAS staff Tuesday afternoon at [] preceding the Wednesday conference with all components concerned with the USSR. 25X1

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4. [] of SR approached LAS to explore possibilities of OTR employment of SR contract employees. Told, of course, that this could not be justified with present minimal use by SR of our Russian program, they were amazed to learn that the Division entered only two students in the basic intensive course. (Incidentally, we have had no response from the DTR's memo to C/SR, dated 19 November 1958, inquiring about SR's future interest in intensive Russian training.)

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5. Organization of Hungary-Basic Country Survey #1, to begin 1 April, will be completed shortly. Support in EE and in State is highly encouraging. Opening lecture will be given by Henry P. Leverich, Deputy Director of the Bureau of European Affairs in State, and an old Eastern Europe hand, on the general subject of Hungary's role in U.S. defense strategy and relations with the U.S.

25X1 6. France-Basic Country Survey #1 continues to draw a full house for almost every lecture, and observations on certain key lectures will be forthcoming. Most gratifying has been the sustained support by WE. This is probably the first country survey which has drawn the pertinent [] as either lecturers or auditors at several sessions. 25X1

25X1 7. Following an extremely interesting presentation by Dr. [] to LAS faculty on considerations involved in understanding a national mentality, Dr. [] at our request, prepared a detailed analysis of essential knowledge and assumptions that must be identified as basis for a training program. Now, at our suggestion, he is developing his concept of a syllabus for a single course, using China as a focal point. 25X1

8. Simultaneously, we independently have functioning a small task force of LAS and SRS/DDI personnel similarly developing a concept. Moreover, recognizing the non-simplicity of the problem, we are considering development of a seminar of about six sessions for LAS staff where exceptional authorities will discuss with us methods for approaching an understanding of national mentality. As this may shape up we will request DTR and SO approval to proceed.

25X1 9. [] will accompany the Chinese language class to [] next week. A French group is at [] this week. 25X1

25X1 10. In anticipation of the installation of the new range, in order to cope with emergencies and in order to link the site more closely with the training center, the electric power lines at [] are being overhauled and tied in with [] 25X1

25X1 11. [] ended his course on Soviet Bloc - Economic Geography Regional Survey on 4 March. A total of 29 students completed.

12. The following language proficiency tests were given during the past week: Czech (6 people), Spanish (1 person), Russian (1 person), German (3 people). On 10 March, the German test was given for two people. These tests were corrected and graded the same day at the urgent request of the Security Office.

25X1 13. On 7 March, Mrs. [] transferred from staff employment to part-time contract employment.

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14. True to tradition, ever-out-of-step WE and the now-emulating SR continue to come blithely tripping in with "too-late-and-too-soon" requests for tutorial training. Then, too, there are also IO and WH who are not yet in step with the times, but their general apathy about language means only occasional "crash" irregularities. And, as usual, the supervisors start badgering for approvals, sometimes even before papers and specifications have reached LAS. Week before last, and several weeks prior to that, it was [] of SR for [] - too late for the FSI course that began in November and the LAS course that began in January. Last week it was JOT [] of WE who has two months full-time when it is impossible to enroll her in any fully suitable course, as an alternative to the requests for tutorial training. This week it is ex-JOT [] of SR and WE for [] between now and late June - too late for the LAS course that began in September and for the FSI course that began in November. Except in unusual cases where an individual's peculiar background makes tutorial training preferable, usually only inferior and expensive make-shift training at a commercial school is possible. Anything moderately satisfactory would cost from \$500-900 a month, and three months, say, adds up to a lot of money per head - particularly when planning for an earlier course or patience for a later course would make unnecessary these expenditures. Erroneously, many persons still feel that tutorial training is superior to systematic, professional group training and that a little familiarity is better than none. In these cases, while we never have denied a request, we do resist endorsing a blank check, and try to develop the best possible plan in consideration of quality and economy. In the majority of cases, when we have been permitted to exert initiative without being badgered hastily to accept the amateur's proposal, we have developed acceptable programs without cost, with a resulting savings of thousands of dollars. (This little tirade is mainly to inform you of this type of case that comes all too frequently from SR and WE, and of what we try to do to handle it.)

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NOTE:

As this report is completed, word comes indirectly that [] is ignoring the Swahili course because our native speaker comes from Kenya. (Of possible relevance, too, is Dr. [] general disbelief in Headquarters language training.)

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